

worldwide use. The genus contains more than 50 species. The name *Thaumaleus* Krøyer, 1849 has appeared in some 50 publications over the last 100 years, with increasing frequency through time.

Acknowledging the almost complete obscurity of the unused senior name, the application is justified, the long-term frequent use of its synonyms being the criterion of acceptability.

(3) Gary C.B. Poore

Museum of Victoria, 71 Victoria Crescent, Abbotsford, Victoria 3067, Australia

This is a clear case of a virtually unknown generic name having priority over *Monstrilla*, which is in wide use and is the basis of family, superfamily and order names. I support the proposal to suppress *Thaumatoessa* Krøyer in Gaimard, [1842] in favour of *Monstrilla* Dana, 1849.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782), *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) and *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius, 1792) (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 2878; see BZN 51: 121–127, 340–341; 52: 71–73)

(1) Przemyslaw Szwalko

Department of Forest Entomology, Agricultural University, Al. 29 Listopoda 46, PL 31-425 Kraków, Poland

As a non-taxonomist interested in stabilization of the nomenclature for the species currently known by the names *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782), *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) and *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius, 1792), I would like to support the majority of the arguments put forward in the application by Drs Krell, Stebnicka and Holm (BZN 51: 121–127), and to agree with Krell's subsequent comment (BZN 52: 72–73) with the exception of para. 5. I also share Dr Stebnicka's general view on the stability of these names (BZN 52: 73).

The alternative solutions to this problem of homonymy, put forward by Dellacasa (BZN 51: 340–341) and by Silfverberg (BZN 52: 71–72), however logical, cannot be easily accepted for all the taxa. I should therefore like to ask the Commission to make a ruling taking into account the following comments.

1. The name for the species known as *Dischista rufa* (De Geer, 1778), published as *Scarabaeus rufus*, is stable and need not be further discussed.

2. The name *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782) refers to a well known, widely distributed and common representative of the subfamily APHODIINAE. Besides taxonomic works it is very often mentioned in ecological and faunistic papers. Under this name it is listed in many keys and catalogues used by non-specialists. Therefore I fully support the application to conserve this name.

3. Use of the name *Aphodius scybalarius* auct. in the taxonomic sense of *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) would cause much confusion since *scybalarius* Fabricius, 1781 is also in use as a senior synonym of *A. rufus* (Moll, 1782). Papers cited by Silfverberg (BZN

52: 71–72) are proof of this. However, many additional papers could be cited in which the well known species is referred to under the name *foetidus*, as noted in para. 6 of the application.

4. *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius, 1792) is not the sole name for the species commonly mentioned in faunistic and ecological papers, as well as those concerning applied entomology. As a species collected sporadically it is known to specialists under both the names *A. rufa* and *A. spissipes* (LeConte, 1878) (para. 7 of the application). For this reason I agree with Dellacasa, Silfverberg and the Code that the first available synonym, *spissipes*, should be adopted for this taxon.

(2) Frank-Thorsten Krell

*Theodor-Boveri-Institut für Biowissenschaften der Universität, Lehrstuhl Zoologie III,
Am Hubland, D-97074 Würzburg, Germany*

I should like to put forward some information on the usages of the names *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782) and *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) in addition to that given in my joint application (BZN 51: 121–127) and subsequent comment (BZN 52: 72–73).

In addition to the references cited in the application (para. 6) I have found a further one (Costessèque, 1993, p. 124) in which *Aphodius scybalarius* has been used in the sense of *Aphodius foetidus* (Herbst, 1783). Hence the name *Aphodius scybalarius* is still in use for two different species. Article 51a of the Code states that citation of the author of the name for a taxon is optional. However, without citing the author's name the binomen *Aphodius scybalarius* is ambiguous and it has therefore lost all usefulness as the name for a species.

To illustrate how common the name *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782) is I have given the Commission Secretariat a list of 54 references by 53 authors since 1990 in which it is used as valid. The senior authors of these references are from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. The publications deal with different aspects of biology. Most of them are faunistic but the list also includes works that are veterinary, ecological, agricultural, conservational, comprehensive regional or national faunal lists and identification keys. It is clear that *Aphodius rufus* (Moll) is a name that is well known, and frequently used in different branches of biology, as noted by Stebnicka (BZN 52: 73). The continued usage of *Aphodius rufus* (Moll) clearly results neither from national tradition nor from adherence to a single influential reference work.

Prior to 1990 the name *Aphodius rufus* (Moll) was used just as frequently, with the exception only of the 11 citations mentioned in our application (BZN 51: 123) and those listed by Silfverberg (BZN 52: 71). After Landin (1956) discovered the true identity of *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) and emphasized that this name should not be used (para. 3 of the application), only Silfverberg (1977, 1979) used it before Stebnicka in 1979 submitted an application to conserve *Aphodius rufus* (Moll) by suppressing *Scarabaeus scybalarius*. Unfortunately this application was not published until 1984 (BZN 41: 265–266) because there was at that time some doubt over the availability of the earliest homonym *Scarabaeus rufa* De Geer, 1778. During this delay G. Dellacassa (1983) published his influential monograph on Italian